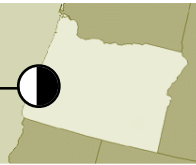


The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

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Plan Protects Neglected Resources



Concerned that Pony Creek had become a forgotten resource, the community leaders of North Bend crafted a greenway plan to increase public awareness and stewardship for the Pony Creek watershed.

From Wetlands to Wastelands

Historically, communities across America thought of wetlands as wastelands. The community of North Bend, Oregon, was no exception and, during the 1960's and early '70's, drained and filled wetland and tideland areas along Pony Creek to construct the Pony Village Mall, North Bend High School and North Bend Junior High School. Over time Pony Creek was channeled into a narrow stream corridor and forgotten. Then, in the late 1990's, a group of concerned citizens started talking about the idea of developing a greenway along Pony Creek to rekindle community awareness and ownership of this forgotten resource, restore and manage wetland areas for their natural values, and provide public access for recreation, education, and pedestrian movement.

Project Origins

The idea for a greenway along Pony Creek originated with several members of the North Bend School Board who wanted to develop an educational science center on school property adjoining Pony Creek. After several meetings, they expanded the idea to include partnering with the city of North Bend to develop a continuous, non-motorized pathway along Pony Creek throughout the city limits to the Pony Slough estuary. The school district could then build and integrate an educational science center with the proposed pathway.

Jim Pex, of the North Bend School Board, organized the

partnership and submitted an application for technical assistance to the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program of the National Park Service. The application was approved and planning began in February, 1998, with the formation of a core 'Planning Team' and a larger 'Advisory Committee'.

The Project Catalyzes

The city representative on the Planning Team was the Parks and Recreation Director, Kelli Watson, who quickly emerged as the catalyst that made the project a success. Kelli expanded the concept even further to include extending the pathway from Pony Slough Estuary all the way to the northernmost city limits where it could connect to Highway 101 and the world renowned Oregon Coast Bike Route. During the course of the project Kelli coordinated meeting logistics, GIS mapping, public relations and successfully applied for a TEA-21 grant from the Oregon Department of Transportation in the amount of \$574,750.

For More Information

Contact Bryan Bowden of the National Park Service's Rivers & Trails program at (206) 220-4122 or bryan_bowden@nps.gov

Keys to Success

- Most of the project is on public lands owned by the City of North Bend and the North Bend School District.
- Strong support and contributions from Kelli Watson, Parks and Recreation Director, who wrote a successful \$575,000 TEA-21 grant application.
- Personal contact and open lines of communication with adjacent landowners.
- Closure of another popular trail in North Bend created public demand to build the Pony Creek pathway.



greenway (n) -- a corridor, often along a stream, that is planned, developed and managed to integrate various conservation, environmental education, recreation, and transportation components tailored to a local communities' goals.

coalition building

Bureau of Land Management
Coos Watershed Association
Menasha Corporation
North Bend Parks and Recreation
Department
North Bend Public Works Department
North Bend School District
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
South Coast Educational Service
District
South Slough National Estuarine
Research Reserve
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Successful Community Involvement

North Bend School Board begins discussing idea of developing an educational science center on school district property adjacent to Pony Creek.



Idea grows to develop a pedestrian pathway along Pony Creek that would include the education science center. Project proponents submit an application for technical assistance to the Rivers & Trails program of the National Park Service.

“The National Park Service was instrumental in bringing together the community partners necessary to make the Pony Creek Trail project a success. Their knowledge and assistance in getting the community 'up-to-speed' and involved with the project was invaluable.”

Kelli Watson

Project planning begins. The addition of the City Parks and Recreation Director catalyzes and propels the project forward. Concept expands even further to connect pathway with the Oregon Coast Bike Route. All adjacent landowners within the study area are personally contacted with information about the planning project. City receives a TEA-21 enhancement grant in the amount of \$574,750.

Concept plan is completed and publically released.

Design, engineering and permitting begin.

2002: Pathway construction completed.

What the Future Holds for the Pony Creek Greenway

The City Public Works Department is coordinating implementation of the TEA-21 grant with the Oregon Department of Transportation. Design, engineering and permitting will occur first with pathway construction expected to occur during either the 2001 or 2002 construction seasons.



Help From the National Park Service

Meeting facilitation. Vision and goal setting. Coalition building. Writing a concept plan. In these ways over the course of nearly two years, the National Park Service contributed to North Bend's dream of building a greenway along a once-forgotten creekside resource. This is one example of how the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program works -- it provides short-term staff assistance to local groups to help them solve the problems they face when protecting their community's important resources. If you think the National Park Service could help your group, contact Michael Linde, Program Leader, Rivers & Trails, 909 First Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104 or (206) 220-4113 or visit www.ncrc.nps.gov/rtca.